

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMON MINISTRY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2017**

<u>Present:</u>		<u>Absent:</u>	
Pastor	Bridget Flad Daniels		
Moderator	Sandy Polarek		
Vice Moderator	Jeff Gibson		
Treasurer		Jeff Carels	
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein		
Education	Deb Rose		
Gifts & Memorials	Nicole Polarek		
Inreach	Heather Collins		
New Member	Steve Jones		
Outreach	Lou Norsetter	Christie Reese	
Stewardship	David Thie		
Worship		Virginia Riggs	
Communications Coordinator		Nicole Kinjerski	
Talents & Gifts			
Guest(s)	Bruce Shafer, EMC Chair; Phil Hauck & Bob Fahres, Memorial Gardens		

Moderator Sandy Polarek called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Congregational Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

Gathering Prayer: Jeff Gibson shared a musical prayer.

Open Forum: None.

New Business

- Memorial Garden Updates: Phil Hauck and Bob Fahres attended to provide Common Ministry with information on the Memorial Garden. The Garden Fund has three “trustees”, Phil Hauck (purchasing) Joan Robb (garden) Bob Fahres (Chair). The Garden is not currently “represented” on the Common Ministry. Phil described the sources and uses of their funding. Funds in excess of costs are held in a fund for the maintenance of the garden and a perpetuity fund. The current balance in the perpetuity fund is about \$28,000, which they would like to grow to \$50,000. They feel the garden needs more visibility. There was discussion on the role of the Memorial Garden Fund and its relationship to the Gifts & Memorials Funds and to establish a stronger connection to Common Ministry. It was agreed that Heather, Gail, Bob and Phil will work together on this issue and share a plan with Common Ministry.
- EMC: Bruce Shafer updated Common Ministry on the EMC plans. Kick-off is set for October 8. Pledge Sunday will be November 12. He will report pledge status to the Congregation on November 19. This year’s theme is “Living in Grace. Giving in Gratitude”. Spending has been low this year since no Associate Pastor hire, which allows for a goal pretty close to what it was last year. The EMC pledge letter will be a mail merge and will name what the recipient pledged in the 2016 EMC and 2nd Mile and will ask for folks to make a pledge in the sum of the two plus a bit more.

Senior Minister's Report: Bridget shared that Ruth E. Baker has resigned as Youth Choir Director. Courtney and Bridget are working on a staffing plan for this dynamic ministry of the Church. The Bell Choir position also open. She reported that several folks have responded to Kaia Stueck's moving testimony about the youth groups. Bridget may be looking for a part-time youth ministry coordinator to help out until an Associate Pastor is hired. The Immigration Advocacy Team is working well. They appreciated Common Ministry's feedback on their survey, which they will be launching in September. They will be organizing 1-on-1 sessions to talk to folks about immigration, focusing on those who have not participated in their prior programming to get information and to build relationships so they can continue interface if and when we take actions.

Clerk's Report

Minutes of the meetings of June 13, 2017 were approved. Heather/Steve. Approved.
Correspondence: None.

Treasurer's Report

David distributed Jeff Carels' usual report. Approved. (Steve/Deb) Please review your budget and get any input and thoughts for 2018 to Jeff by September 5.

Continuing Business

- Getting to Yes: Discussion of Pages 42-95.
- Associate Pastor Search – Deb reported that we had a candidate who made a choice to go with a different congregation. They continue to review profiles. Bridget will update the congregation on the Search process.
- Immigration Advocacy Team Survey - See above.
- Tech/AV Task Force Update – Jeff Gibson reported they are making progress. Access points are installed. He is working to improve signal strength. Tablets and Bluetooth speakers have been purchased and need to be mounted. They are working on connecting to the amp system in the Sanctuary.

Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)

EDUCATION

No additions

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Marlene resigned. Looking for someone else for the investments side. All gathered expressed gratitude for Marlene's service.

INREACH

56 people have signed up for the Retreat, including 18 children. ReUnion Sunday (September 10) will be a potluck this year (no corn). Cleanup help was requested from Common Ministry.

NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP

New Member will next meet in September. New Member "Sundae" (dessert potluck) will be October 29.

OUTREACH

Outreach is still looking for a Jubilee House Coordinator. Service Sunday will be November 5. Planning has begun for an adult mission trip to Biloxi the end of November.

STEWARDSHIP

The street work continues. Our water pipe is apparently not in good shape. We received an estimate of \$2,300 to replace the pipe while the city has the street dug up, which is considerably less than it would be if we had to pay to have the hole dug and replace the pipe. Stewardship motion to replace the water pipe was approved. David gave some background on the Second Mile Campaign, which was originally focused solely on the Associate Pastor, but then also considered the Church's cost of the street reconstruction. It brought in pledges of several thousand dollars more than the amount originally set for the Associate Pastor.

He moved that the approximate \$15,000 cost for the street be paid (1) from the Second Mile funds to the extent that they exceed the amount originally set for the Associate Pastor, and then (2) from Gifts & Memorials. The motion was seconded by Heather and approved.

WORSHIP

Bridget reported we plan to continue PrayGround into the school year.

Communications: Bridget reported the replacement rainbow graphic for the signboard is still being worked on.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was approved. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hohenstein
Clerk

Next meeting: September 12, 2017 – 6:30 PM -- Chapel Classroom

Future Schedule:

Common Ministry Meetings	Gathering Prayer	Treats
9/12/17	Heather Collins	Jeff Carels
10/10/17	Marlene Lanoue	Jeff Gibson
11/14/17	Bridget Flad Daniels	Christie Reese
12/12/17	Lou Norsetter	Deb Rose
1/9/2018	Sandy Polarek	Sandy Polarek